

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 05098 140500Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W  
----- 119812 /10  
R 140415Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6933

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E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS: PINT PINS  
SUBJ: KING GRANTS AMNESTY TO EXILED POLITICAL FIGURES

REF: STATE 300355

1. KING DECEMBER 5 GRANTED AMNESTY TO 12 PERSONS LIVING IN EXILE UNDER A VARIETY OF JUDICIAL SENTENCES. OF THE 12 ONLY TWO ARE KNOWN TO EMBASSY: BHADRAKALI MISHRA, FORMER MINISTER AND DEV MAN RAI, FORMER HEAD OF EDUCATION COUNCIL. OTHERS ARE BHAGAWAT YADEV, KARNA BAHADUR TAMANG, KARNA BAHADUR RAI, KRISHNA DEV SHAHI, SYAURI JIMMAWAL, SINGHA BAHADUR TAMANG, KRISHNA BAHADUR TAMANG, RAM BAHADUR TAMANG, JIT BAHADUR, DEVI PRASAD SHARMA.

2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES ALL THOSE AMNESTIED ARE PROBABLY FORMER MEMBERS OF NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY, BUT EVEN THIS IS NOT CERTAIN SINCE MANY ARE OF TRIBAL GROUPS AND ARE UNKNOWN IN KATHMANDU. FORMER MINISTER MISHRA DECEMBER 11 RELEASED STATEMENT TO PRESS EXPRESSING HIS GRATITUDE TO THE KING FOR HIS ACTIONS. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, EXPLICITLY ENDORSE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM IN HIS STATEMENT BUT WELCOMED "THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEDICATE HIMSELF TO THE SERVICE OF HIS COMPATRIOTS." WE DO NOT ATTACH ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE KING'S AMNESTY. A NUMBER OF NEPALI CONGRESS OFFICIALS HAVE RETURNED TO NEPAL SINCE 1975 WHEN THE KING FIRST GAVE PUBLIC ASSURANCES THEY WOULD NOT FACE TRIAL, PROVIDED THEY AGREED TO SUPPORT THE CURRENT PARTYLESS SYSTEM. THE PROBLEM OF B.P. KOIRALA IS CONSIDERABLE MORE COMPLICATED SINCE HE IS

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UNDER INDICTMENT IN A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE THE KING (BIRATNAGAR)

AND HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH LEADING ARMED INSURRECTION (OKHLADHUNGA).  
KOIRALA IS UNLIKELY TO SIGN A PLEDGE SUPPORTING  
THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM WHICH, AT THE VERY LEAST, IS ONE  
PRECONDITION FOR AMNESTY. ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES IN  
KATHMANDU KOIRALA IS NOW CONSIDERING RETURNING TO NEPAL IN  
LATE DECEMBER TO FACE WHATEVER CONSEQUENCES THE GOVERNMENT  
DECIDES TO METE OUT. ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION MAY BE DIFFERENT  
IN THE URBAN AREAS OF THE TERA, WE DO NOT BELEIVE HE HAS  
WIDESPREAD SUPPORT IN KATHMANDU FOR HIS REPORTED DECISION TO  
RETURN AND, AS A REZSULT, THE GOVERNMENT CAN PROBABLY ACT  
WITHOUT TOO MUCH REGARD FOR PUBLIC OPINION IN THIS INSTANCE.  
WE DO KNOW THAT BOTH SURYA BAHADUR THAPA AND GENERAL SUBARNA  
SHUMSHERE J.B. RANA HAVE DISCUSSED THE CASE WITH THE KING IN  
AN EFFORT TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE SOLUTION. THAPA TOLD  
EMBOFF LAST WEEK THAT SOLUTION HAD NOT YET BEEN FOUND AND  
THAT HE BELEIVED KOIRALA WOULD MOST PROBABLY BE ARRESTED  
SHOULD HE RETURN.  
MAYTAG

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## Message Attributes

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